

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 7 with the following rewritten paragraph:

According to one protocol cultured *Lactobacillus* strains of the present invention were examined for their capability to prevent adhesion of pathogenic bacteria causing diarrhoea to intestinal cells or invasion thereof into intestinal cells, respectively. To this end, intestinal cells were contacted with the pathogenic bacteria and the cultured *Lactobacillus* strains of the present invention, and the rate of adhesion, or invasion, respectively, was assessed. Throughout the text of the present application, the term *Lactobacillus* or the like is deemed to be substituted with this same term in italics form, namely, *Lactobacillus*. The use of italics or underlining applies to other such names of genera and species of microorganisms that may also be identified throughout the text of the present application in keeping with scientific custom.